Helston Borough.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1914.

HELSTON.
LANDER AND SON, PRINTERS, STATIONERS, ETC.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year 1914.

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

THE Borough of Helston covers an area of 640 acres. The greater part of this lies on the south and west slopes of a hill running down to the valley of the Cober. A small portion of the town is built at the bottom of the hill, very little above the level of the river. The town is the Market town of a large agricultural district; and its main industry is supplying the needs of the inhabitants of that district.

Markets are held three days a week. A large Cattle Market is held weekly on Mondays. Until recently this Market was held fortnightly, but owing to the congestion of business caused by the increasing number of cattle brought in, the Council arranged a Weekly Cattle Market. This change seems to be giving great satisfaction.

A new weighbridge for cattle has been erected by the Council The additional number of Cattle Markets means a considerable increase in the cost of cleaning and scavenging.

The sale ring has been roofed in, for the better protection of the buyers and sellers in bad weather.

Helston is the centre for County Court and Petty Sessions, as well as for the Board of Guardians and the Rural District Council.

The population by the recent census is 2938, and the number of inhabited houses about 730, giving an average of persons per house of 4.

Vital Statistics.

These are now based on the figures of the census of 1911, by which the population of Helston is estimated at 2938 against 3008 in 1901, a loss of 70. This must be remembered in comparing the rates of this year with previous ones.

As last year all deaths of persons resident in the Borough but dying outside the area, are credited to the Borough; also births of children whose mothers are resident outside, but were confined in the Borough are deducted. By this means the net number of deaths remains the same, one "inward" and one "outward" being registered.

All the statistics given below are net, *i.e.* allowing for these "transferable births and deaths."

The total number of Births was 49 giving a birth rate of 16.66.

The number and rate for 1913 were 61 and 20.77.

The number of illegitimate births was 6, against 9, 4, 11, 5, and 8 in the previous five years.

12.24 of the births were illegitimate, against 18.8 last year.

2 births occurred in the Union Workhouse, both illegitimate.

The total number of Deaths was 49, from which must be deducted 1 "outward" death, giving a net of 48, and 4 deaths of non-residents in the Union Workhouse, the net deaths being 44 with a death rate of 14.97.

Last year the figures were the same, 44 and 14.97.

12 deaths occurred in the Union Workhouse, 8 non-residents and 4 residents. Last year 13 persons died there, 8 non-residents and 5 residents.

The net natural increase is 5, against 17 last year and an average for the last 10 years of 7.

Of the 48 deaths 34 were of the age of 65 or over (against 28 last year).

Deaths occurred at the following ages—3 between 65 and 69, 13 between 70 and 74, 11 between 75 and 79, 6 between 80 and 84, and 1 of 85.

Of deaths of children below the age of one year there were 5 giving a rate per 1000 net births of 102.04. The figures last year were 8 and 131.14. The following were the causes of death of the infants, and the age at death:—

1 Convulsions,	2 Broncho Pneumonia,
1 Marasmus,	1 Whooping Cough.

In spite of the continued hot weather, the usual plague of flies was conspicuous by its absence. This undoubtedly is due to the greater care exercised by the newly-appointed Town foreman in having pits cleaned out when required, and also to the fact of his seeing to the regular sprinkling of the surface of the pits every week with disinfectant. By this means the flies are prevented from laying their eggs and so breeding. The only places where flies were really troublesome were in a few courts where the surface of the ground is constantly polluted by the tenants emptying slop water carelessly.

Under the weather conditions of the late summer and autumn, an epidemic of summer diarrhœa was to be expected, and in former years undoubtedly would have occurred. This year, however, the cases of diarrhœa in children were comparatively few, and those slight in character, with the result that no death occurred from this disease.

The danger of fly infection is becoming known, a greater care is taken every year in covering up food, especially milk and butter. The efforts of the midwife too is increasing the number of breast-fed children, while the use of proper feeding-bottles instead of the dirty old bottles fitted with tubes is becoming a regular thing.

Infectious Diseases.

Of notifiable disease there were two cases, both of Diphtheria occurring in houses where no cause of infection could be found, both cases being of a mild type.

There were a few cases of chicken-pox among young children during the autumn.

About the same time an epidemic of whooping cough began which by Christmas had affected a large number of children in the infant schools. Most of the older children had had it during an epidemic three years before.

This epidemic was especially noticeable for the extremely early age at which some of the victims were affected. Personally I saw several children under the age of two months; and one case aged 7 weeks was registered as dying of broncho-pneumonia following on whooping cough.

I have again to thank the masters and mistresses of the different schools for their assistance in promptly reporting to me cases of infectious diseases.

Tubercular Disease.

4 deaths occurred from this disease, only one of which was that of an inhabitant of the Borough. Of the other three, one was that of a person brought into the Union Workhouse from St. Keverne, the other two were due to an affection of the lungs caused by the nature of the deceased persons' employment, in one case gold mining in South Africa, in the other stone cutting in America, on which tubercular disease supervened. Both these persons were affected before they came to Helston.

Two cases of Tubercular disease of the lung (one a non-resident in the workhouse) and one case of Bone tuberculosis were notified.

Under the Sanatorium Benefit Scheme of the National Insurance Act, provision is being made for the treatment of Tubercular Insured persons and their dependants. It is to be hoped that sufferers will take early advantage of their chance under the Act, as from all recent statistics it seems evident that only in really 1st stage cases can much benefit be expected from Sanatorium treatment.

Tuberculin Dispensaries have been started at Penzance and Camborne to allow of domiciliary treatment. There is little doubt that this is the treatment of the future, to which we must look for the eventual stamping out of the *White Plague*, though it is too soon yet to see any definite results.

Opthalmia Neonatorum.

The Local Government Board have made Opthalmia Neonatorum a Notifiable Disease. This is a very acute infectious inflammation of the eyes which occurs in newly-born children, being a common cause of blindness. Medical practitioners and midwives will now have to notify any case that they may attend. Fortunately the disease is very rare in this district.

Vaccination.

The number of Vaccination cases is still decreasing, owing to the increased use of exemption orders. Unfortunately in many cases conscientious objections and dislike to the trouble of a day's extra fretfulness on the part of the child seem to be synonymous terms.

At the present time this is to be especially regretted, owing to the risk of the importation of small-pox from abroad by refugees or soldiers.

The Local Government Board is most anxious to have vaccination carried out as thoroughly as possible; and this can only be done by greater care in the giving up of exemption orders. Much good might be done by those who have authority to grant the orders explaining to applicants that not only is the life of the exempted child exposed to greater danger, but through that child, the whole community.

Those who can remember the epidemic of small-pox in Helston, 40 years or more ago, could give a most telling account of how the small-pox picked out the non-vaccinated and spared the vaccinated persons in the infected houses.

Looking at the matter from the lowest point of view, the loss of trade which would occur on the outbreak of a single case of small-pox would be enormous, and it would pay the tradesmen of the town to form a Committee to interview and attempt to change the opinion of every applicant for an exemption order.

General and Special Enquiries.

The inspection of all houses, the rent of which is under £16 a year, has been continued in accordance with the provisions of the **House Planning Act.** Every house of this value in the town has now been inspected.

As the large bulk of the houses in the town come under inspection, it will be seen that the work of the M.O.H. and S.I. is very largely increased. The Act gives the Sanitary Authority very full powers for dealing with property, the condition of which is in any way prejudicial to the health of the tenants. Not only the outside sanitary conditions, but the state of repair of the buildings inside and out are reported on, and owners and compelled to put the dwellings into proper tenantable condition, whenever the Sanitary Authority thinks it necessary.

The general character of the houses and their surroundings has certainly improved of late. Whether this is due to the fact of the knowledge that inspection would take place, it is difficult to say. During the inspection this year the number and character of the defects was less in every way. Many of the defects such as uncovered pits and broken down closets are due to the tenants

themselves using the wood for firewood, and in no sense reflects on the landlords. I am certain that in several instances, I have seen three new covers supplied to pits during my term of office as M.O.H. and these have all disappeared.

In all cases owners of property, to whom defects are pointed out, seem willing at once to take the necessary steps to put the premises in order.

Water Supply.

The water supplied by the Helston and Porthleven Water Company has been much improved both in quality and quantity. The Company had luckily tapped good strong sources of supply during the previous winter, so that in spite of the long-continued drought, there was no shortage of water, and owing to the repairs to screens, and general improvement in the supervision of the supply. There was an absence of the interesting animalcules with which we were supplied during the previous summer. The Company must be congratulated on having increased its supply in time, and otherwise, judging by previous years' experience, considerable shortage must have ensued.

Rivers, Streams, and Lake.

The unfortunate drop in the price of tin has necessitated the closing for the time of the Loe Valley Tin Works, and also of several mines and stamps higher up the river.

About two and a half miles above Helston, a "leet" is taken off from the Cober, and runs to the Eastern end of the town, where it is divided into different channels for supplying the "kennels," or paved water courses which run along each side of the main streets of the town. These streams catch a great deal of dust, and generally contribute to the cleanliness of the streets. For a long time now no sewage has been allowed to run into these channels, while the Council are taking special precautions to prevent rubbish of any sort being thrown into them.

The Coronation Lake has proved a great joy to the younger inhabitants of the town, many of whom have learned to swim. Owing to the hot summer greater use than ever was made of the lake, both for bathing and boating. A dressing shed has been built on the North side of the pool. Provision is being made for enhancing the beauty of the lake, by judicious planting of shrubs on the banks, and general improvements to the bank and islands.

A bridge has been made in the Causeway, to allow boats to pass round the island. The shallow part of the pool near the inlet has been cemented so that small children can paddle with safety. A number of boys were taken from the Schools and taught to swim, as part of the school curriculum, a number becoming efficient in this way.

The Penguella stream has been piped and the old ditch is now filled in. The banks are being gradually planted with flowers and shrubs.

The shallow edges of the Lake has been deepened uniformly to allow of the sailing of model boats, a number of which are to be seen on the water every fine evening. The management is now in the hands of a large Lake Committee appointed by the Town Council.

The small trout which entered the Lake have grown very rapidly, and a large number of over 10 inches long have been caught, the largest one weighing 1 lb. 11 oz.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

1. **By Sewers.**—These Sewers serve about 40 waterclosets, and also receive the effluents from the septic tanks at the Workhouse and the County School.

2. **By Cesspools.**—About 25 houses are supplied with water closets which empty into Cesspools. These are cleaned out when required.

3. **By Privy Pits and Ash Pits.**—There are about 400 of these in the Borough. They are systematically cleaned out by the Borough men at an average cost of £45 a year. A number of owners of pits use the manure for their gardens. Of the rest, 303 were cleaned by the Borough man, and 579 loads of manure removed.

4. **The Two Public Urinals and One Public Watercloset** (1d. in the slot system) are kept clean and in good condition.

From the 1912 Report.

Dr. Wheaton from the L.G.B., inspected the Sanitary condition of the town in the early summer, and the Town Council has been instructed to take into immediate consideration the question of providing a system of sewage disposal for the Borough.

Owing to the geography of the Town, this scheme will require most careful planning, and even with the utmost care the cost will be very heavy for a small town like Helston. For some little while the Town Council have been making plans for the extension of the Borough Boundaries. At present a large number of houses (in Meneage Street especially) which are in Wendron parish, share in all the Town improvements, without contributing to the cost. A number of these houses would be in the area of our sewage scheme, and should undoubtedly be transferred to the Borough area. It would be unwise to complete any plan of sewage disposal until the question of the Boundaries is settled.

At the same time the Town Council is taking steps towards the Drainage scheme, so as to be ready as soon as anything can wisely be put in hand.

The Town Council has obtained a preliminary plan for the draining of the Borough from an engineer: and this plan is being most carefully considered.

The Town Council are working steadily on towards the settlement of these two important questions.

In addition to the daily house to house collection of Rubbish pails, the Council have arranged for a weekly collection of broken glass and china which was formerly put in the pails and lessened the value of the manure piles.

To do away with the nuisance formerly caused by the town employees and tradesmen's boys burning paper and straw refuse on the Lower greens, the Town Council have built a Refuse Destructor near the Dung Depot, to which all such refuse has to be taken, to be burnt by the man in charge.

The Local Government Board have recently called for an account of the Scavenging done throughout the country in Urban Districts.

The following is an extract from the Report for Helston :—

Number of fixed ash pits in combination with privies	130
Number of fixed ash pits not in combination with privies	15
Number of moveable receptacles of galvanized iron with proper covers	22
Number moveable receptacles	285
(Open top oval galvanized Sanitary Pails).	

Scavenging is performed by the Council's own men and by Contractor daily (except Sundays). The refuse is collected in a covered dust cart.

The refuse is sorted at the depot, combustible material being burnt.

All the refuse is conveyed in the Council's covered cart to the depot, which is about a mile from the town and outside the Borough.

Trade refuse is collected weekly on Tuesdays.

The streets are scavenged by a man and cart, employed daily. He receives extra help as required.

The Council undertake the emptying of cesspools, which is done as often as required.

The Inspector of Nuisances orders the removal of large or offensive accumulations of manure from cowsheds or stables.

The cost to the Council of manual labour for the removal of refuse averages about £95, and cartage about £45 a year.

Schools.

The Sanitation of the County and Elementary Schools is kept in very good condition. The two Elementary Schools are supplied with pail closets, and the County School with water-closets.

Poor Law.

On January 1st, the number of inmates in the Union Workhouse was 108. In addition to this 1913 tramps passed through the Helston Workhouse, against a little over 1559 last year, and 1000 the year before.

Hospitals and Dispensary.

Patients from the town chiefly go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, for surgical and opthalmic treatment, and a few to the Miners' Hospital, Redruth, and the West Cornwall Infirmary, Redruth.

At the Helston Dispensary, patients able to attend do so on production of a subscriber's ticket (value 2/6), which entitles the holder to four attendances, with advice and medicine. Persons in receipt of parish relief are not admissable. The Dispensary is specially valuable for chronic cases, where the cost of long treatment would be prohibitive for the class of patient attending. As only about 2 per cent. of the patients are Insured persons, the work of the Dispensary is not affected by the Insurance Act.

Food Supply.

Milk—No analyses of Milk has been undertaken to test its purity as regard the presence of tubercle or other baccili, and no samples of New Milk were taken by the Police for Analysis during the year.

It would be a very good thing if the Council were to have samples of the Milk sold in the town tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli occasionally.

Under the new Act, much greater powers are given the Sanitary Authority.

Samples of foodstuffs and spirits were taken by the Police during the year and found of good quality *i.e.* three of Butter one each of Margarine, Saffron, Gin and British Brandy.

Bakehouses, (3 in number) are kept in clean condition, and the walls properly whitewashed.

Slaughterhouses (7) are kept clean and well whitewashed, Some of the owners are slow in getting rid of accumulations of offal, and must understand that the orders of the Sanitary Inspector are to be promptly obeyed, and should not need such frequent repetition, otherwise the general condition has much improved during the last few years.

The Workshops and Workplaces of the town are kept in very good condition and proper sanitary provision made for the workpeople.

There is practically no outwork done now in the Borough ; what there is is not regular, but done only in busy times.

Sanitary Administration.

This is carried on by the Sanitary Inspector, who supervises the work of the Borough employees.

Hospital Administration.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the Borough or District for dealing with acute Infectious Diseases, and no provision for the treatment of Tuberculosis, except under the Sanatorium Benefit part of the Insurance Act.

Mortuary.

There is no provision for post-mortem examinations. This is very badly needed, as such examinations have to be made sometimes under very unfavourable conditions, both from the point of view of the doctor, and of the persons dwelling in the house.

There is also no decent place where bodies of persons dying of infectious disease in small houses could be kept reverently until burial takes place.

It is hoped that the Council will take this matter in hand, as so far nothing has resulted from the deliberations of the various Committees that have considered the question.

Local or Adoption Acts.

The following have been adopted—(i) The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. (ii) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Cerebrospinal fever, Poliomyelitis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum are now notifiable.

Diphtheria.

The Town Council pay for the examination of swabs of doubtful cases of Diphtheria, and advantage has frequently been taken of this by the Medical men of the town. Children who have had diphtheria have to prove sterile to two successive swabbings before being allowed to return to school.

The Council also pay for Diphtheria antitoxin when used for poor people.

Prevalence and control of Acute Infectious Disease.

In cases of Infectious Disease the M.O.H. has visited the Schools concerned and taken all possible steps for prevention of the spread of the disease: where necessary material used by the infected children are destroyed, desks disinfected, etc. The Schoolmasters and Mistresses are most careful in watching for infectious diseases and reporting doutful cases to the M.O.H.

Prevalence and control of Tuberculosis.

The Council hitherto have paid for the examination of Sputum. This will still have to be done as there are no funds for the purpose supplied under the Insurance Act.

Infant Mortality.

The presence of a Trained Midwife in the town will do much to encourage the breast feeding of infants, which will, it is to be hoped, soon diminish the heavy infantile death-rate. The M.O.H. during the last three years did not personally see a single case of epidemic diarrhœa in a child who was breast-fed.

Rainfall.

The total Rainfall for 1914 was 4.36 inches more than total of 1913.

The total Rainfall was 47.36 inches, as against 43.20, 54.06, 38.8, 47.43, 34.73, 35.43, and 43.45 during the previous seven years. The average for the 8 years is 43.05.

The wettest month was December with 9.20 inches, next in order being March 8.10 and July 5.05, while in May only 1.19 fell and in January 1.75.

The number of wet days in each month can be seen in the following table. A comparison of the amount of rain and the number of wet days in each month during the last three years will give a very vivid picture of the difficulties under which farming is carried out, and the absolute hopelessness of trying to forecast weather conditions for any given crop.

The longest drought was from September 19th to October 11th, 23 days. In the 20 days, April 10th - 30th, rain only fell on the 22nd (.02 in.)

The number of days on which .01 or more of rain fell was 195, against 221, 235, 174, 232, 266, 189, and 182 in the last 7 years, the average number for the 8 years being 204.

The heaviest fall in 24 hours was 1.34 on December 10th, the next highest being 1.13 on July 4th, and 1.05 on March 26th.

The highest temperature was 84° in August, and the coldest 6° of frost (26°) in January.

	Monthly Rainfall.			No of wet days in each month.		
	1912.	1913.	1914.	1912.	1913.	1914.
January ...	4.47	1.55	1.75	16	29	12
February ...	5.09	1.22	4.93	23	10	19
March ...	6.47	4.39	8.16	27	23	29
April ...	.22	4.90	1.97	7	22	10
May ...	1.94	4.00	1.19	17	18	11
June ...	4.12	1.50	3.24	20	11	13
July ...	5.01	.46	5.05	22	8	26
August ...	10.39	1.70	2.72	29	9	13
September ...	1.42	4.09	2.46	10	18	12
October ...	3.87	4.50	2.62	17	21	12
November ...	4.23	4.62	4.27	23	24	15
December ...	6.83	4.27	9.20	24	20	24
	54.06	43.20	47.56	235	221	195

I have to thank Mr. J. W. Tyacke for these figures.

The M.O.H. would like to draw the attention of the Council to the very heavy increase in his duties entailed by the extra work demanded by the Local Government Board. Weekly reports of Infectious Disease have to be made to both the L.G.B. and the County Council. The administration of the Tuberculosis order entail much extra work, weekly reports having to be sent to County M.O.H.

The House Planning Act demands that the M.O.H. shall personally examine the sanitary condition of every house in the Borough that is rented at less than £16 a year and report fully on it.

The information required in the Annual Report is very much increased, while the statistics are based on new regulations and are more troublesome to make out.

I should like to call the attention of the Council to the great loss they, in common with the rest of the County, have suffered in the death of Dr. Robert Burnet, the County M.O.H. He was not only a most excellent official, thoroughly up to his work in every way, but he was a most courteous colleague, and during his term of office in Cornwall, made a personal friend of every Medical Officer of Health in the County, while few men possessed to an equal degree the tact which he employed in dealing with committees of all sorts and on all questions.

In finishing this, my last report to the Mayor and Town Council of Helston, I must thank all those with whom I have had to deal officially for the kindness which they have always shown me, and the care which has always been given to any matter which I have brought forward.

I very much regret that I shall not be able to watch the progress of the Drainage Scheme, a matter in which I was very interested, and I trust that in time this most difficult matter may be successfully carried through.

(*Signed*)

MARK R. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health
for the Borough of Helston.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

House Planning Act.

185 Houses were inspected by the M.O.H. and the S.I.

In a number of cases minor repairs were ordered and carried out—leaky roofs, defective yards and drains, gutters, covers to privy pits, etc.

Four new houses were occupied during the year, three dwellinghouses and one shop and dwellinghouse. All these are fitted with water-closets.

The M.O.H. and the S.I. have now visited all the houses of a rental of £16 a year or under.

288 Pits were cleaned out during the year. 607 loads of dung being removed at a cost of £46 7 7.

The Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Milkshops, Cowsheds, Public Urinals, etc., were regularly visited and are kept in very good order.

The Bakehouses are kept very clean and the conditions under which the bread is made are as good as possible. The dough is mechanically mixed in each case, and the ovens heated by steam.

Water Supply.

275 Houses are supplied with water by the Water Company.

Appendix.

The following letter signed by over 120 M.O.H.'s appeared recently in the "Morning Post."

FLY PREVENTION.

To the Editor of the "Morning Post."

Sir,—In the general work of disease prevention one of the problems most urgently calling for solution is that of infantile enteritis, or the summer sickness of children. Circumstances most strongly suggest that this disease is carried by the common house-fly, indirectly by the infection of food and directly by transference from one infected person to another. The recent visit of Surgeon-General Gorgas to this country has once again drawn the attention of the public to the magnificent results obtained at Havana, Panama, and elsewhere as a result of the elimination of the mosquito, and it will be within the recollection of your readers that large areas in this country where formerly malaria was rife, have been freed from the disease by the introduction of a system of drainage that got rid of the breeding places of the mosquito.

Infantile enteritis is a disease terribly fatal to child life. In Cairo, where there was a plague of flies in 1909, 3000 children under five years of age perished in two months.

In the very hot summer of 1911, according to the returns of the Register-General. there were, per 1000 births, 130 deaths of infants under one year from all causes, and of these 36 per 1000 were due to infantile enteritis; in the colder summer of 1912, the total deaths of infants per 1000 births was 95, 10 per 1000 of these being due to infantile enteritis. Put in another form, in 1911 the total number of deaths throughout England and Wales from diarrhœal diseases under two years of age was 38,467, while the corresponding figure for the colder year 1912 was 7,445. Many of these deaths are preventible by the expedient of so reducing the

prevalence of the common house-fly as to render it unimportant as a factor in carrying disease. Experience has shown again and again that it is useless to try and tackle the problem by attempting to kill the individual flies. This is obvious when the enormous number of offspring that one female can produce is taken into account. The life history of the fly is as follows : In the spring the female leaves some warm dirty nook where she has been hibernating, and sets out to lay her eggs. She chooses for the purpose a manure heap or any collection of refuse, garbage, or offal, and lays at each sitting, of which there are several, as many as 120 eggs. In a few hours, if the surroundings are warm, the maggot is born. It eats the filth in which it lives, casting its skin as it grows, and about five days after its birth it becomes a chrysalis, a minute rolled up bean-like body less than a quarter of an inch in length. After five days, if the weather is favourable, the fly emerges, and sets out in search of food. Mouth, legs and body all become smeared with the flies food, so that not only does it spread disease by swallowing germs, but furnishes for them a suitable breeding place on the outside of its limbs. It is only by destroying the breeding-places of flies that their numbers can be reduced, and though a great deal can be done, and has been done, by the authorities, public co-operation is essential if success is to be obtained. Each individual householder must be induced to accept the responsibility of looking after his own premises. He must see to it that his backyard, which should be properly paved, is kept scrupulously clean; his dust-bin must be properly protected and emptied at short regular intervals ; no refuse must be allowed to lie about his house or premises. In London the manure heap does not present a serious problem, but in the country it is very important. Where practicable the manure should be spread and dug in at once, or if the heap has to be kept the top and the sides should be covered with a layer of earth. In so far as London is concerned the same procedure should be followed.

It is for the public to insist that the present state of affairs should be amended. The children in the elementary schools should be taught the life history of the house-fly, and should be told that it is a probable carrier of infantile enteritis, typhoid fever, ophthalmia, cholera, tuberculosis, and possibly diphtheria and small-pox. The Boy Scouts could undertake a supremely useful piece of work, as they have already done in one area, by tracking down the breeding-places of the flies and notifying their existence to the health authorities. The cinematograph houses could help very materially in spreading knowledge on the subject even more than they do at present by films showing the full life history of the insect and the damage that it causes ; district visitors could

do much by explaining to the people among whom they go the main facts of the problem and emphasising the responsibility that rests on each to co-operate for the common good.

The breeding season of the flies is now commencing, and we appeal to the public through your columns to do all in their power not only to see that they harbour no breeding places for flies on their own premises, but to exert their influence among others with a view to putting an end to a national evil of very considerable magnitude.

Yours, &c.,

F. J. ALLAN, M.O.H., Westminster.
W. J. HOWARTH, M.O.H., City of London.
CHARLES PORTER, M.O.H., St. Marylebone.
CALDWELL SMITH, M.O.H., Wandsworth.
And 120 other London and Country M.O.H.'s.